NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
FOR THE BLIND

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(g) The difficulty in securing adequate facilities and equipment.

(h) The higher costs of all types of special education and the difficulty in securing adequate funds.

(i) The problem of the rural child who is handicapped.

(j) The problem of prevention.

(k) Finally, we must face the fact of actual overlap of problems within the children we deal with—a deaf boy may be a problem child—and conversely he may be a problem child because he is deaf or hard of hearing.

This enumeration of the common factors in our respective problems should serve to draw us nearer together in cooperative effort.

What are the possibilities of such cooperative effort? The answer hinges upon the program set up. What then are the steps in setting up such a program?

(a) Agreement upon certain minimum objectives. These should be practical in character and sufficiently general in statement so that the various groups will readily subscribe to and support them. Among these objectives might well be:

1. Recognition on the part of the several States—of State responsibility for the development of local programs for the handicapped child; this to be accomplished through the organization of State Councils of Special Education—and the development of Bureaus of Special Education within the State Departments of Education with proper organization, personnel and support.
2. Development of adequate provisions for Teacher Training on the basis of approved standards.
3. Enlistment of interest and support of existing organizations in related fields — Educational, Civic, Health and Medical and Parent-Teacher organizations both local and national.
4. Official representation in this Council of all national organizations interested in the Exceptional Child.

(b) Publicity:

1. Through representation on the programs of member and related organizations.
2. Through the journals issued by these organizations.
3. Through representation on programs of State associations—Education, Health, Civic and Welfare organizations.

(c) Co-operation and help of Federal agencies.

The careful formulation of such a program in definite terms will go far toward disarming any fears or apprehensions on the part of leaders of the separate national organizations—will serve to emphasize the community of interests which exists and win that support so desirable for successfully carrying out our respective programs.

The committees on special education of the White House Conference under the able leadership of the president of this organization showed convincingly that with proper leadership harmonious effort is possible within this group. With the background of that experience and upon the foundations already laid, there seems to be no serious obstacle to the formulation of plans for immediate cooperative effort upon a coordinated program.

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NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE BLIND

American Association of Instructors of the Blind
American Association of Workers for the Blind
American Foundation for the Blind

ROBERT B. IRWIN
Executive Director, American Foundation for the Blind

The three organizations considered in this paper represent two different classes of agencies: the American Association of Instructors of the Blind and the American Association of Workers for the Blind are organizations of individuals professionally interested in the welfare of the blind. They have no permanent headquarters nor any paid staff. Their primary function is to arrange at stated intervals national conventions of educators and other workers for the blind to carry on discussions of subjects of common interest. The American Foundation for the Blind, on the other hand, has a permanent office in New York with a salaried staff. It is devoted to various lines of endeavor designed to promote the interests of the blind of this country.

American Association of Instructors of the Blind

The first convention of American Instructors of the Blind was held in New York in 1853. Their formal organization, however, was not consummated until 1871. With but one or two exceptions this Association has met biennially ever since. During its sixty years of active service the Association has been concerned in practically all movements for the training of the young blind and for the betterment of the condition of the blind, both children and adults. The Association is a delegate body with a restricted membership. This consists chiefly of the executives in charge of the schools throughout the country, with delegate teachers and a member of each governing board. Librarians also are eligible to membership. Others who attend the biennial meetings are always welcomed and are often elected as honorary members. The proceedings of the Association have been published regularly and constitute probably the most valuable body of literature upon the education of the blind to be found anywhere.

American Association of Workers for the Blind

The American Association of Workers for the Blind was organized in 1905. It was an outgrowth of an association composed largely of blind people which had been formed ten years earlier. This Association is a very democratic society open to any resident of North America interested in promoting the cause of the blind. It has a membership of some three or four hundred people, including practically all workers for the blind who are sufficiently interested to attend its conventions. It meets biennially, usually in June, alternating with the biennial meetings of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind.

Council News Letter

Issued by the Treasurer of the International Council for the Education of Exceptional Children

VOL. V MAY, 1932 No. 1

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THE TENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

February 18-20, 1932 — Washington, D. C.

The general theme of the tenth annual convention was "The Development of a Coordinated Program for the Education of Exceptional Children." Representatives from National Organizations interested in the care, treatment and training of exceptional children presented briefly the work of their own and allied organizations, and indicated how their work and that of the Council might coordinate. We print first the outline of a coordinated program presented by Dr. H. McManaway, Superintendent of The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind. The paper outlines briefly but lucidly the present situation, states our problem for us as it were, and suggests a possible solution.

Following this are the papers presented from the various organizations. In the October issue we shall present the papers from various educational organizations, and a round table discussion on the future of The International Council, together with papers which were presented at the several breakfasts and dinners.

We deeply regret that our limited space has made it necessary to print only a portion of some of the papers. The editor has tried to retain all that which contributes to the idea of coordination and trust that we have not spoiled any one's thesis by our selection.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COORDINATED PROGRAM

The Viewpoint of National Organizations Interested In Particular Types of Handicapped Children

H. M. McMANAWAY
Superintendent the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind

The best evidence of the need of a coordinated program is perhaps the size of the incompleted task in every separate subdivision of the field of special education. In some of these fields national organizations have been functioning more or less successfully for three-quarters of a century or longer. The unfinished task is conclusive evidence that more team work is necessary.

The national organizations interested in particular types of handicapped children have important functions to perform; there are so many unsolved problems within each field, peculiar to that field, that any attempt to supplant these organizations by a single organization would be a serious mistake in judgment.

Yet necessarily there is overlap because many of the problems are common to all of the groups, and cooperative effort will be mutually helpful. These common factors are more numerous than might first appear; among these might be mentioned:

(a) Failure of the general public—and of many professional educators—to recognize the essential need for special education to meet the needs of the child with a handicap.
(b) The difficulty of early finding and diagnosis of all handicapped children.
(c) The need for well organized provisions for finding-surveys.
(d) The importance of proper diagnosis and placement for training.
(e) The fundamental objectives of all types of special education—to fit the handicapped individual for successful living among his more normal fellows.
(f) The need for, and difficulty in finding properly trained teachers.

It was as Secretary of this Association that Mr. Charles F. F. Campbell started the "Outlook for the Blind" in 1907, and for many years this publication was looked upon as the official organ of that Association. The Uniform Type Committee, whose labors finally resulted in the establishment of a uniform type for the blind in the United States, was a committee of the American Association of Workers for the Blind.

The 1921 convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind was devoted almost entirely to a discussion of the need of a permanent national agency for the blind. At the conclusion of this meeting the American Foundation for the Blind was formally organized, though it was a year or more before it began to function.

The World Conference on Work for the Blind, held in New York in April, 1931, was under the auspices of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind, the American Association of Workers for the Blind, and the American Foundation for the Blind. From the nature of the organizations, however, the American Association of Instructors of the Blind and the American Association of Workers for the Blind could be of service only through participation in the various governing committees. The administrative work of the World Conference was carried on very largely by the staff of the American Foundation for the Blind.

American Foundation for the Blind

The American Foundation for the Blind opened its office in New York in 1923. Its purposes are: first, to act as a clearing house of information on work for the blind, and to serve as an agency to coordinate group activities in behalf of the blind throughout the United States; second, to promote the establishment of local and national agencies for the blind where needed, and to assist local organizations for the blind in improving their work by supplying expert advice and friendly cooperation in the development of their activities; third, to conduct research in all phases of work for the blind; fourth, to disseminate general information designed to give the public a better appreciation of the needs and capacities of the blind population of the United States.

The American Foundation for the Blind is supported in part by endowment, but more largely by gifts from annual contributors known as members. Its staff is largely occupied with correspondence, assisting with various committees, and investigating many major and minor problems pertaining to work for the blind. It conducts a Reference Library and an Information Bureau on work for the blind.

A few of the outstanding achievements in which the Foundation has played a large part may be mentioned as indicative of the ways in which this organization is endeavoring to fulfill its purposes. For example, in 1923 the Foundation took over the publication of the "Outlook for the Blind," a quarterly magazine devoted to matters of special interest to workers for the blind. This had for many years been leading a rather precarious existence as a labor of love under the editorship of Mr. Charles F. F. Campbell. In 1931, the Foundation began the publication of the "Outlook" in braille as well as in ink type. In 1928, the Foundation inaugurated the publication of "The Teacher's Forum," designed as a professional journal for teachers of the blind. This is issued in braille as well as in ink type.

The Foundation has published several books and pamphlets, the most notable of which are: "The Blind Child and His Reading," "Insurance Underwriting—A Study of the Business in Its Relation To Blind Agents," "Osteopathy—Opportunities for the Blind in Training and Practice," "A Directory of Activities for the Blind In the United States and Canada," and "Blind Relief Laws: Their Theory and Practice."

The Foundation was largely responsible for the enactment of the Pratt-Smoot law which places library work for the blind in the United States upon a sound financial footing. It had much to do with the development of the interpointing of braille books, a method of printing for the blind which has reduced the bulk and cost of such books by 40% or more, and which makes an actual saving in this field of over $50,000 a year.

In cooperation with local friends of the blind the Foundation has secured the passage of laws establishing state departments for the blind in Alabama, Florida, Iowa, Mississippi, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, and Wyoming. It assisted in the conduct of Educational Weeks for the Blind in a score or more of cities, including, among others: Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Rochester, St. Louis, New Orleans, Seattle, Dallas, and Salt Lake City.

For the past five years, in cooperation with Perkins Institution in Watertown, Massachusetts, the Foundation has conducted an Experimental School for the study of methods of teaching blind children. For several years the Foundation has also been conducting an Experimental Shop for the development of improved appliances for the blind. The two most important results of the work of this shop are a braille stereotyping machine to be used in embossing books, and a braille typewriter, both of which will be on the market within the next six months.

Among the uncompleted tasks which the Foundation has now in hand may be mentioned: the publication within the next month or two of an historical and critical survey of the history of work for the blind by Dr. R. S. French, Principal of the California School for the Blind; the publication of the Proceedings of the World Conference on Work for the Blind; a survey of conditions of the blind in the State of Kentucky; the development of standard classifications of degrees of blindness, causes of blindness, etc., in cooperation with other national agencies interested in the blind, which will make possible the collection of more complete and accurate statistics of blindness throughout the country; putting into effect a program for the training and after-care of the deaf-blind in cooperation with agencies interested in the deaf and the hard of hearing; the conducting of negotiations with braille publishing authorities in Great Britain with a view to the adoption of a uniform braille code for the English-reading world; and a study of the feasibility of an entirely new method of publishing books for the blind.

The American Foundation for the Blind is interested in every phase of work for the blind, and so far as its limited funds will permit, endeavors to serve the cause of the blind in every practicable way in which a national agency can advantageously function. It carries on no case work, serving local agencies for the blind rather than individual blind people. It duplicates the work of no other agency, either local or national, but cooperates with all. Its contact with blind people is restricted for the most part to its publications, to the granting of scholarships, to its information service, to the securing of reduced rates on radio receiving sets, watches, and railroad transportation, and to the distribution, free of charge, of radio receiving sets to needy blind people.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS, Inc.

LEWIS H. CARRIS
Managing Director

The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness was organized January 1, 1915 (incorporated December 26, 1917, as the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness), for the purpose of meeting a need felt by workers in the field of prevention of blindness for a national agency to furnish information and assistance in carrying forward their work. Its objects are:

(1) To ascertain through study and investigation any direct and indirect causes of blindness or impaired vision.

(2) To promote measures which will lead to the elimination of causes of blindness.

(3) To disseminate knowledge on hygiene of vision.

The Society is an incorporated national membership organization supported entirely by membership fees and contributions. All activities are operated without profit. It is governed by a Board of Directors, elected by members, and administrative authority is vested in an Executive Committee. It maintains close cooperative relations with official and voluntary state and local associations, including boards of health and boards of education, which have the prevention of blindness as a direct or indirect part of their program. It includes, as members and active supporters, physicians and laymen, those socially minded, interested in public welfare and public health movements.

Its services briefly are: (1) Preventing eye infections of new born babies. (2) Establishing eye clinics for pre-school children. (3) Saving the eyesight of children of school age. (4) Campaigning against trachoma. (5) Eliminating eye hazards in industry. (6) Field service. (7) Literature and propaganda. (8) Correspondence and publications.

These services are often rendered through cooperation with other agencies; Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of N. A.; The American Medical Assn., U. S. Public Health Service, National Education Assn., etc.

The above statement of the activities of the National Society has been given to indicate that its work for the conservation of vision classes—which is the tie-up it has with the International Council for the Education of Exceptional Children—is only one part of its program. Very early in the history of the Society it was realized that there were a limited number of children whose eyesight must be conserved and that in such conservation work a considerable number of pedagogical problems would arise. It therefore came to pass that the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness found itself actively concerned with the pedagogical as well as the ophthalmological welfare of such children.

Conservative estimates indicate that one in five hundred to one thousand children—depending on the locality—needs the special help of sight saving classes. This would make a total of about 50,000 such children throughout the United States. At the present time only about 4,000 of them are enrolled in these classes. The movement is comparatively recent, inasmuch as next year will be only the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the first two sight-saving classes in the United States—in Boston and Cleveland. There are now 400 of these classes in 112 communities.

Sight-saving classes offer not only an opportunity for education, but in many instances, a possibility of helping to check serious eye conditions. Moreover, in the vocational guidance that is offered in such classes the child is taught to realize his own possibilities and his own limitations, and is guided to select occupations that will not only be possible for him to execute but such that will not increase his eye difficulties.

The per capita cost of educating children in sight-saving classes is usually from $200 to $250; it ranges from $132 to $331 per year. The per capita cost of educating other groups shows an equally wide variation: in regular grades from $47 to $1,247; in classes for the deaf from $226 to $431; in orthopedic classes from $88 to $378.

In its endeavors to promote sight-saving classes, the National Society has assisted in the organization of teacher training courses for the past ten years, providing in most instances the financial subsidy to the universities guaranteeing them against financial loss. Its staff members also provide a considerable portion of the instruction in these courses. During the coming summer such courses will be offered at Columbia University, State Teachers College at Buffalo, Chicago University, and the University of Cincinnati.

The National Society has published a number of bulletins on sight-saving class work and issues regularly the Sight-Saving Class Exchange which is printed and distributed free of charge to all sight saving class teachers and to supervisors and school administrators.

Mrs. Winifred Hathaway, the Associate Director of the Society, who has been active in the work of the International Council, is especially charged with the promotion of this work. I regret that her absence on a long trip to the far west and to Hawaii prevents her attending the present meeting.

There are several general principles which the National Society attempts to follow in its promotion of sight-saving class work:

1. Its work is confined exclusively to the child with seriously defective vision and does not deal at all with the education and care of children who are already blind.

2. The National Society recognizes the community of interest which exists between the promotion of sight-saving classes and all other special classes for physically handicapped children. It believes that this community of interest is so close that there must be the fullest co-operation in all attempts to secure legislation, particularly that involving appropriations whether such legislation be state or national.

3. The Society believes that this community of interest does not extend to the work for mentally retarded children. It believes that wherever possible the administration of the work for physically handicapped children should be differentiated from the problem of the administration of the mentally defective child. It recognizes that there are a considerable number of borderline cases between the groups and that in every instance the major handicap should prevail; that is to say, a mentally deficient child with defective vision should be placed with the mentally deficient group.

What has been said above about the differentiation of the work does not imply any lack of appreciation of the perfectly splendid work which has been carried on during the present century in the education of the mentally subnormal. The distinguished ex-President of your Board, Dr. Meta L. Anderson, will recall the days of yesteryear when she began her work in the City of Newark and that one of her first classes was established in the grammar school of which I was principal. She will assure you of the sympathetic attitude which I personally had at that time and which I want to assure this group I have maintained ever since.

WORK FOR CHILDREN OF LOWERED VITALITY

CLARA E. HAYES, M. D.

(a) American Child Health Association.
(b) American Social Hygiene Association.
(c) American Public Health Association.
(d) National Organization for Public Health Nursing.
(e) National Tuberculosis Association.
(f) American Heart Association.

Clara E. Hayes, M. D., Assistant Director, Division of Medical Service, American Child Health Association, New York City, New York.

The term "lowered vitality" is an arbitrary one and is applied to those children who cannot meet the ordinary strains of life or stand the strain of the regular school program. The White House Conference Committee on "Special Education of the Handicapped and the Gifted" used the term "lowered vitality" to identify a group of physically handicapped children. The Committee included in this group "all those types of cases which, without distinct or visible evidence, physically handicap the child." Among the causes of lowered vitality included by the Committee are tuberculosis and diseases of the circulatory system, and malnutrition from all causes.

You have been hearing this morning of the work of those national organizations interested in the work for the blind and partially seeing, and for the deaf and hard of hearing. These children have definite handicaps resulting from specific causes, and the organizations working in their interest have definite programs of prevention, treatment and care. In contrast with these, the children of lowered vitality include a large group who are below par for widely varying reasons. "Lowered vitality" is a simple enough term in itself but it may denote a condition the causes of which are many and often wholly obscure. Practically all of the children in this group suffer from malnutrition. The White House Conference Committee estimates that in the United States six million children of school age are suffering from malnutrition. The condition is so prevalent, in fact, that it has been called "the great disease of the American school child."

The work of the national health associations dealing with children of lowered vitality reaches these children only indirectly. The National Tuberculosis Association, American Heart Association and American Social Hygiene Association work specifically for the prevention of tuberculosis, and cardiac and venereal diseases. The American Public Health Association, National Organization for Public Health Nursing and American Child Health Association work for the promotion of public health in general through the prevention of disease and improvement in community and personal hygiene.

Your President has requested a bird's-eye view of the organizations just mentioned, the present trend of their work and its relation to children of lowered vitality.

These associations, all national in scope and one extending throughout North America, are voluntary, non-official organizations, being connected with no governmental agencies but cooperating closely with them. They are members of the National Health Council and all have their headquarters in New York City. Their programs reach into the states through departments of health, and through their own constituent state associations. The American Public Health Association is a professional organization working only through professional groups. The other organizations are classified as service organizations which give assistance to states, counties and communities through both official and unofficial groups. Each one of these groups is directed by a professional person of long practice and wide experience, and has on its staff members of the medical, education and nursing professions.

National Tuberculosis Association

The National Tuberculosis Association works through its own affiliated state, county and city associations. Through these affiliated associations it conducts health work in every state and in the District of Columbia. The individual membership includes physicians, nurses, laymen, libraries and hospitals. The organization is maintained by five per cent of the gross receipts from the annual sale of Christmas seals.

Some of the purposes of the association are:

To study tuberculosis and to disseminate knowledge concerning its cause, prevention and treatment.

To stimulate, unify and standardize the work of the various tuberculosis agencies throughout the country, especially state and local associations.

The organization conducts medical research in tuberculosis in the laboratories of ten universities. It constantly stimulates work for the early diagnosis of tuberculosis, particularly the discovery of tuberculosis in children. Through its child health education service it promotes the improvement of health programs in elementary and high schools, in teacher training schools through demonstration courses, in colleges and in universities. This is done through personal service, correspondence and printed material for use in schools. A course dealing with the health problems of children attending fresh air classes and schools is given in the summer session at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Statistical field service is rendered, one very important study having been the incidence of tuberculosis among children in industry.

The scientific publications of the National Tuberculosis Association include the American Review of Tuberculosis, tuberculosis abstracts and other technical papers published for physicians. The Journal of Outdoor Life is designed especially for tuberculosis patients. Popular pamphlets on the nature, prevention and care of tuberculosis are distributed, and books and pamphlets dealing with child health education have been prepared for use in the schools.

The work of this organization affects children directly through its provisions for health education in the schools and its efforts to discover those who are suffering with tuberculosis, and informing their parents as to their needs and care. It reaches them indirectly through its work for the control of tuberculosis among adults in the community and in the home, and through its campaign of education of the public in the causes, prevention and general care of tuberculosis.

American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is primarily concerned with the problems of promoting greater interest in and developing better measures for the prevention and treatment of heart disease. In its educational efforts it aims to reach both the medical profession and the lay public.

Support for this work is derived from membership fees and contributions from individuals, foundations and national organizations.

The principal activities of the association and its affiliated groups are to encourage:

The establishment of heart clinics in health centers, hospitals and other institutions.

Provision of better facilities in schools for the care of children who are afflicted with heart disease.

The promotion of vocational training and the establishment of trade schools in the larger centers where children can learn trades and occupations best suited to their physical capacities.

The conduct of research in the cause, prevention and control of heart disease.

Coordination of the work of centers established for the control of heart disease and the organization of additional heart committees and associations.

The publications of the association include the Amer ican Heart Journal, abstracts of medical literature con taining the most recent information on the preventio and care of heart disease, pamphlets and a monthl bulletin.

The American Heart Association reaches the chil of lowered vitality through its effort to procure bette care for children who have heart disease, through it promotion of vocational training for children with im paired hearts, and through its popular educational ma terial. The distribution of abstracts of medical literatur on heart disease to physicians undoubtedly tends to kee the interested practitioner better informed on the mos recent developments in the treatment of children havin cardiac impairment.

American Social Hygiene Association

The American Social Hygiene Association's membe ship is comprised of physicians, nurses and other pro fessional people and interested laymen. Its sources o maintenance are from membership dues and from volu tary contributions.

Certain of the purposes of the association are:

To acquire and diffuse the knowledge of principles and practices of promoting social health.

To suppress commercialized vice.

To organize the defense of communities against venereal diseases.

To conduct, on request, inquiries into the statusof venereal diseases in communities.

The American Social Hygiene Association provid special lectures and radio talks, and publishes the Jou nal of Social Hygiene, the Social Hygiene News, pamp lets and news releases. Social hygiene education selected subjects is promoted through courses in schoo and colleges and assistance with training courses f teachers. Institutes, lectures and study courses are pr vided for leaders in church and civic groups interest in character training, sex hygiene and education for fa ily life.

The association cooperates with state and city heal departments, university extension bureaus, and commu ity groups in arranging social hygiene programs, a with state and local law enforcement committees a protective associations.

The work of the American Social Hygiene Assoc tion touches the field of lowered vitality in children its work toward maintaining and promoting satisfacto home life. The prevention of syphilitic infection is i portant because in both its inherited and acquired for the disease seriously affects the vitality of a child.

American Public Health Association

The American Public Health Association, now in sixtieth year, is comprised of professional public hea workers. Practically the whole of North America represented in the membership of this organization, Ca ada having become a constituent member in 1884, Mex in 1891, and Cuba in 1902.

The membership, which is composed principally health officers and technically trained official pub health workers, is the largest of all public health org izations.

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